BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

Coningsby Dawson's New Novel Presents for Inspection Some Modern Sirens-"Richard Richard." Mr. Merwin Tells a Tale of Bohemianism-The Story of a Hero in a Garden-Other Books.



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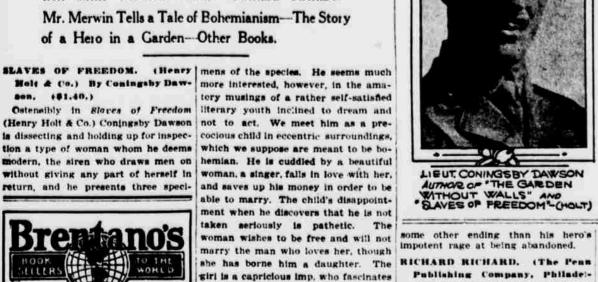
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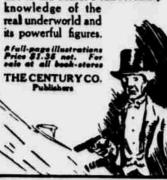
There is much that is entertaining part and the story jumps over several with a good deal that is in bad taste years so as to enable them to grow up. (The Penn Publishing Company). It The youth has become a successful opens with a decidedly unconventional author when he runs across the girl but amusing day in Naples that a in an Arthurian pageant at Glaston- Young man and woman spend together bury; they have an all night motor Though the girl acts like a daredevil ride together, he treating her as his she behaves conventionally enough ideal and she snubbing him. She flees ever after. Then comes an ocean to America, where she hopes to become voyage in which the struggles with a an actress, and suggests that he fol- dypsomaniac, swinging from insanity low her there. He does this and she to imbecility, are offset by conversakeeps him at arm's length, but while tions on philosophical topics with a ness of one prosaic admirer who helps he is philandering and she is blowing level headed business woman. The hot and cold, the author takes the op-portunity to record impressions of Lake Keuka, where it appears that various phases of New York life. By the business woman has been as per-this time the girl, her still beautiful versely obstinate in muddling her afmother, and the selfish actress whom fairs as her drunkard son in pursuing the girl admires, all have lovers dang- his course. The Naples youth underling about them and play with them takes to cure the son, to put the old in the same way. They and their lov- lady's affairs in order and to marry ers act like psychological puppets, the girl. He is aided by an eccentric though more than one it seems as if and outspoken Irishwoman with red the girl could be won, if the youth hair, who is injected into the story. would only show real passion and not There is much psychopathological stand back to analyze himself and discussion, some swimming and a her. He gives her up at last, but boat race before the author is ready after an interval the girl hunts him up to end. He chooses to leave his hero again and proposes a platonic honey- without a name. It is an incoherent moon in France to find out whether sort of a story in which there are she really loves him. After a very many bits that are bright and amusshort trial she runs away from him, ing. particularly the philosophical for which women will not blame her, bantering, some parts that seem childwe feel sure, and after a vain chase he ish and some that are very disagreefinds that he no longer loves her. It able, even if the author seems to enspeaks well for Mr. Dawson's art loy them. Realistic descriptions of young writers and artists and especially of young writers and artists and especially of young writers. that the reader does not weary of the delirium tremens surely have no place

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piles it to the independent young the boy on to participate in a prize sells a family portrait. The son fails women who are in search of pleasure, fight in Madison Square Garden; she in love and becomes engaged to a rich though it fits him better than any one plays on his passions till he loses his girl with social ambitions. She visits else. He is absolutely unscrupulous head. The tutor and the first girl he the family, is disappointed with what phia.) By Hughes Mearus. in anything that affects his own in- saw, however, work hard to cure him she sees and plans to jilt her lover terests. The scene is the Greenwich and he relieves his feelings by en- and make a better match. The author village of fiction, the abode of all mis- gaging in settlement work. There are describes her manuruves understood geniuses, of the devilish several very human people in the brazeniy attaches to herself the son of New York bohemianism, and of the story, a lot of good natured humor and a newly made peer, who had shown herd of young people seeking to put into practice their half baked theories the author mistakes for strength. It throws overboard the man she is en about art and literature and morals is readable and enjoyable. and life and to flaunt the conventions woman imbued with all the modern

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any extreme; she is protected, how-The simple troubles of an amiable happy. ever, by some remnants of conscience, by the decency of most of the men around her, who recognize the honesty he out at all critical moments. The of them, save the mother, care for to enjoy his somewhat artiess tale reader's interest is in what will be-come of her, for he will soon see

an occasional bit of coarseness which attention to her lover's sister, and gaged to. There is a much more de sirable malden at hand, however, to WATERMEADS. (Dodd, Mead & console him and worthy young men to Co.) By Archibaid Marshall. make up to his two attractive mar-riageable sisters. The family finances are also patched up and all are made happy. The humor is supplied by a English county family engage the pert little girl and by long speeches reader's attention in Archibald Mar-shall's Watermeads (Dodd, Mead & soon become tedious. The author Co.). They are impoverished, but none writes pleasantly, so that it is possible

AUTHOR OF THE "GLAD" BOOKS UPHOLDS OPTIMISM

rectness; he gives the arguments for and against the modern independence of woman; he describes many familiar and many not so well known bits of New York; he props up the Greenpicturesque figures, male and female; above all he jeers amusingly at many things, and presents us with a girl that can be liked through all her blunderings and a lover that is wholly satisfactory. It is a graphic picture outside of the city and some youthful bohemian New York of expectant

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Some one pointed put recently that success in writing would seem to be assured if only the author's name was "Porter." Authors were instanced of such varying methods as O. Henry (Slidney Porter) and Gene Stratton-Porter. Holworthy Hall (Harold Porter) and Eleanor H. Porter. The last mentioned representative of the lucky name, whatever the name may or may not have to do with it, cannot deny her success. "Pollyanna" is now duplicating on the stage its success between book covers and Mrs. Porter's latest novel, "Just David." though published only a short time ngo, is already in the hundrel thousand class.

Mrs. Porter, who lives in Boston, is of a retiring disposition and does not court personal publicity, but the other day she consented to talk about her work with a representative of The Sux. These days a realism which tends to pessimism seems to be in vogue, it was pointed out to Mrs. Porter that criticism has been made of the pronounced optimism of her work, as being false and sentimental. Mrs. Porter replied that naturally she does not find the optimism in her work objectionable, else it would not be

type of work, but in a different spirit. I Hall (the Lord & Taylor store) for don't believe that there has ever been of the telephone a writer writing whatever kind of story from his Virginia home for the celebraa writer writing whatever kind of story who has achieved success from doing his work sincerely who has not then seen others deliberately set out to duplicate that success. And naturally in the latter cases, where the tone is mechanically manufactured, the result is upt to be unantisfactury. The hospitally was able proportions. The hospitally which is able proportions. ically manufactured, the result is upt to be unsatisfactory."

Mrs. Porter revealed that she received the inspiration for her first story in New York. She was spending the winter here and down in Trinlity Church yard she got so fascinated by conjecturing what the people buried there could they come to life again would think of their present surroundings that she finally wrote a story on the subject.

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